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Qaddafi Denies A Murder Plot; U.S. Disagrees

By PETER KIHSS

Libya's ruler, Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, denied yesterday that he had plotted to assassinate President Reagan or anyone else. However, the State Department said that it had evidence of such plans.

"We are sure we haven't sent any people to kill Reagan or any other people in the world," Colonel Qaddafi said. After he spoke in an interview televised from his Tripoli office, the State Department issued a statement in Washington that said, "We have strong evidence that Qaddafi has been planning the murder of American officials both here and overseas."

The statement went on: "We certainly hope that Qaddafi's denial means that he will abandon the use of terrorism and assassination as a part of his foreign policy."

"When he has stopped, we will know it."

A Department spokesman, Sue Pittman, declined further comment.

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service are reported to have been put on the alert after reports that five terrorists trained in Libya had come to the United States with plans to murder high-ranking officials.

On Friday, President Reagan said he was "concerned" about such intelligence information and was taking the reports seriously. But today's statement by the State Department was the first official report from a Government agency saying it had strong evidence of a murder plot.

Following Colonel Qaddafi on the ABC News program, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, acting chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, declared that "that man was lying to us." The New York Democrat said the United States had firm evidence that Colonel Qaddafi had been planning terrorist actions for years.

Colonel Qaddafi said President Reagan was "silly, and he is not qualified to lead America as a superpower."

The Libyan leader added, "America must get rid of this Administration, and fell it down, as they did with Nixon, and elect another respectful President to get respect for America."

He went on: "We refuse to assassinate any person. On the other side, we are ready to fight against America in the Mediterranean Sea, in our borders, because America is attacking us."

He charged that the United States had tried "to assassinate me, to poison my food, and they tried many things to do this."

He challenged the United States to make an investigation to "let the American people and the Libyan people and the Congress of America to know the truth, who is liar: Reagan or Libya."

Colonel Qaddafi contended that the Exxon Corporation had decided to end operations in Libya "under the pressure of Reagan Administration to get out." He asserted that Mr. Reagan's policy was "going to destroy the interests of the other American companies."

"Of course we need them, but if they go, we have to do without them," he added.

"America wants to dominate all the world, and divide the world into enemies or slaves to America," Colonel Qaddafi asserted. He said that "Zionist propaganda is behind the many accusations and negations against us in America," but he insisted, "We are ready to establish normal relations with America like other countries in the world."

In an interview published yesterday with the Italian daily Corriere della Sera in Milan, Colonel Qaddafi asserted that Libya had never helped terrorists, such as the Red Brigades in Italy or the Red Army Faction in Germany.

"Our support goes only to movements that struggle for a just cause, like the P.L.O.," he said, referring to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Senate minority leader, Robert C. Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia, said he and Howard Baker, the Republican leader, who is from Tennessee, had both been briefed by the Secret Service on the situation.

On the CBS News program "Face the Nation," Senator Byrd said that "this is the kind of perceived threat coming from a source, meaning the Libyan Government perhaps," that made it necessary to take precautions.